Depth of Under-ground Telephone Cables

771. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the standard depth prescribed for laying the under-ground telephone cables;

(b) whether under-ground cables connecting Gajrajbigha under Nalanda Exchange have been laid at the prescribed depth;

(c) if so, the reasons for damage to the cable resulting frequent disruptions of telephone connections; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what action Government propose to take against the contractor and the officials responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) The standard depth for laying under-ground cable is one metre.

(b) Yes, Sir. Standard depth has mostly been maintained except for locations where pipes, sewerage, rocky soil etc. exist.

(c) The under-ground cable connecting village Gajrajbigha has been partially damaged due to water pipe line laying work near village Damankhanda and Begampur. However the cable has now been repaired.

(d) No action is contemplated against the contractor/officials in view of (b) above. Payment has been made to the contractor as per actual depth of cables laid.

Time-limit for transfer of telephone

772. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to satate:

(a) whether MTNL, Delhi has any time-limit for transferring telephone from one exchange to another;

(b) if so, whether this time-limit was adhered to in the case of requests for transfer of telephones received at Chanakyapuri office of MTNL on 31st December, 2001;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-adherence of the limit;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for delay in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those responsible for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) Normally the telephones are shifted from one exchange to another in 15 days subject to area being technically feasible.

(b) Some delay was observed in one case.

(c) There was delay in issue of order for transfer.

(d) and (e) Warning has been issued to the concerned officials.

Long distance telephone facilities by private companies

773. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private companies engaged in providing long distance telephone facilities in the country;

(b) the number of connections provided by each of these companies both in urban and rural areas till 31st December, 2001, separately;

(c) whether any of these companies has been found violating the tender agreement of providing 10 per cent of connections to the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) These companies have been given licence for National Long Distance Telephone Service.

(b) and (c) No company had started service till 31.12.2001. These companies are not required to provide telephone connection.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) & (c) above.